

## Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01

AS-01 /101 W

----- 013832

R 021549Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9385

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

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DEPT PASS ALGIERS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, SS, AG MO

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON SAHARA DISPUTE

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS CONTINUES TO LEAN TOWARD ALGIERS IN ITS COVERAGE OF THE SAHARAN DISPUTE, AND FOR FIRST TIME IMPLIES U.S. IS ON SIDE OF MOROCCO.

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END SUMMARY.

2. IN LIGHT COVERAGE, SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS MAINTAINS ITS TILT TOWARD ALGIERS AND THE POLISARIO FRONT. PRAVDA (FEB 1) CARRIES EXCERPTS FROM AN ALGERIAN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE SITUATION HAS A "DANGEROUS CHARACTER," AND THAT THE POLISARIO FRONT WILL CONTINUE ITS "STRUGGLE FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE WESTERN SAHARA." ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, POLISARIO FORCES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE INVOLVED IN BATTLES WITH MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN TROOPS.

3. PRAVDA ALSO REPORTS FROM RABAT THAT HASSAN'S SPECIAL EMISSARY, FORMER PRIME MINISTER LAMRAMI, JOURNEYED TO WASHINGTON "BECAUSE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION."

PRAVDA ADDS FROM WASHINGTON THAT LAMRANI MET WITH THE SECRETARY, AFTER WHICH THE STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE U.S. "INTENDS TO EXTEND MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE" TO MOROCCO.

4. ELSEWHERE, IN ITS AUTHORITATIVE INTERNATIONAL WEEK, PRAVDA DEVOTES ONLY ONE PARAGRAPH TO THE DISPUTE, BUT CITES PASSAGE FROM BOUTEFLIKE'S MESSAGE TO WALDHEIM THAT THE SITUATION "IS BECOMING DANGEROUS FOR PEACE."

5. COMMENT. PRESS COVERAGE REMAINS EXTREMELY GUARDED, BUT LEANS TOWARD ALGIERS AND POLISARIO. THE REPORT ON LAMRANI'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON IS THE FIRST WE HAVE SEEN WHICH PLACES THE U.S. ON THE MOROCCAN SIDE OF THE DISPUTE. STOESSEL

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALGIERS.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, UR, US, SS, AG, MO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006